

Tales. Ginn and Company, New York. 68 cents.

4. *Brother Rabbit and Brother Bull Frog*, told by Uncle Remus, by Joel Chandler Harris. Grosset and Dunlap, New York.
5. *Mister Toad, The Tree Toad*, Farm Rhymes. Grosset and Dunlap, New York. \$2.00.

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NOTE—The five books listed above can be found in almost any school library. The children will enjoy searching through their home libraries for poems or stories about the frog. Interesting songs on the toad will be found in the *Churchill Grindell Series of Songs*, Churchill Grindell Company, Plattville, Wisconsin.

WORK OF HOME ECONOMICS CLUBS IN VIRGINIA HIGH SCHOOLS

A STUDY has been made of the Home Economics Club work of the State-aided and the Smith-Hughes schools in Virginia. The purpose of this study is to present information about the club work, both to the general public and to the new teachers who are going into the field and may be called upon to organize a club.

To gain this information I got a list of the State-aided and Smith-Hughes schools from the September *Peptomist*, a Home Economics club paper which is published by the State Board of Education. A brief questionnaire was made out and sent with a letter to the Home Economics teacher in each of the sixty-two schools. Each teacher was asked to hand the letter and questionnaire to the secretary of the club in the school, have her fill it out, and return to me. Twenty-seven of the questionnaires were returned, representing forty-four per cent of the schools.

The questionnaire contained nineteen questions and the data from these will be given in order:

1—What is the name of your club?

There were various answers to this question, as the clubs of the State are named for people who are prominent in the Home Economics field. The person for whom the club is named is sponsor for that club. The sponsor is ready to offer suggestions at any time for out-of-class work, for club programs, for solution of special problems. The club is encouraged to be proud of its sponsor, to learn what she has contributed to the progress of Home Economics education, and to make the sponsor proud of her club by originality of plans, perfection of work and accomplishment.

2—When was your club organized? Out of twenty-seven answers received to this question only one was organized as early as 1916; two in 1920; two in 1921; six in 1922; ten in 1923; and six in 1924. These replies show that the clubs increased in 1923 more than any other year; in that year nearly as many clubs were organized as had been organized in the eight years previous to this date.

3—Original membership; present membership? There were only twenty-one answers received to the first part of the question and all of the clubs answered the second part.

The original number of members enrolled in the clubs ranged from ten to fifty members. The present number enrolled in the various clubs ranged from twelve to fifty-five members.

4—How much is the membership fee? The number of answers received was fifteen. Eight required five cents each month; three required ten cents a month; one required twenty-five cents a term; one required twenty-five cents a year and two asked for voluntary offerings only. Some of the other clubs stated that they raised the necessary money for club expenses by selling lunches, etc., and did not require a membership fee.

5—How is this fee used? Fifteen replies were received. Two stated that money was

used for club expenses and the others used this sum in one or more of the following projects:

1. Socials,
2. Any needy case in the community,
3. Magazine subscriptions,
4. Pictures for the rooms,
5. Things needed in Home Economics department,
6. Refreshments,
7. Subscription to *Peptomist*,
8. Christmas stockings for twelve poor children.

In this way the club not only aids in furnishing funds for improvement of the Home Economics department but links up its work with outside interests by doing charity work. In only six cases out of the fifteen did the membership fee charged cover the expenses of the club.

6—*Does the club meet weekly, monthly, or bi-monthly?* Twenty-one out of the twenty-seven clubs heard from met monthly; one met weekly and one had work assigned weekly, but the regular club meeting was monthly; four met bi-monthly and one did not meet regularly.

7—*How is club business transacted: at regular meetings, by committee, or in business meetings?* Nineteen out of twenty-seven clubs heard from transact their business at each regular meeting. Others carried on their business by having regular business meetings and committee meetings.

8—*Indicate which type of program you present:*

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|---|----|
| 1. Demonstration by Home Economics instructor | 5 |
| 2. Speakers on subjects pertaining to Home Economics work | 14 |
| 3. Stunts by different classes | 10 |
| 4. Musical programs | 10 |
| 5. Moving pictures | 1 |

9—*If demonstrations are sometimes given in club programs, please list those you have had during the past year.* Only five clubs stated that they had any demonstrations whatsoever. Two gave the names of the demonstrations, one on biscuits given by the instructor and one on child care given by the club. One other club stated that

demonstrations had been given by means of moving pictures.

10—*How is the program arranged?* Out of the twenty-five replies received, fifteen credited the program committee; eight said the program committee and home economics teacher. In only one case did the advisory member assist in planning the program.

11—*Is a program given at each regular meeting?* Twenty-four replies were received and nineteen stated they had programs at the regular club meeting.

12—*Are programs given to which all pupils are invited? To which patrons are invited? How often?* Twenty-four answers were received. Fourteen gave programs to which all pupils were invited, usually in chapel exercise; twenty-one gave programs to which patrons were invited; and one club only invited the high school pupils. There were many different answers as to how often the patrons should be invited. Some were invited once or maybe twice a term, or once or twice a year. Other clubs said that the patrons were welcome at any time they wished to visit the club.

13—*How often do you have socials?* Eighteen replies were received to this question. One club has a fifteen-minute social period each meeting, others have it every two months and others two, three, or four times a year. One or two clubs stated they did not have socials.

14—*Are special projects put on?* The number of answers received to this question was thirteen. Of these twelve gave names of the projects and one stated that it had the cottage plan and all such work was done as a family affair.

15—*If so, name some that have been worked out in the past.* Those listed are as follows:

- (1) Paid the expenses of a girl at Blue Ridge Sanatorium for one month.
Sent Christmas boxes, baskets, etc., to destitute families at Christmas.
- (2) Made health charts and improved health conditions in the primary grades.

- (3) Decorated and arranged booth at County Fair.
Put up curtains in sewing room.
Strove to make whole school as neat looking as possible.
- (4) Served hot drinks for school children.
Improved Home Economics Department.
- (5) Did some canning during the summer.
Each girl also made a dress or some article during the summer.
- (6) Ran the lunch room.
Weighed and fed undernourished and poor children in school.
- (7) Served numerous organizations.
Made costumes.
Gave a bazaar and supper.

16—*What is your plan of work for this year?* The number of answers received was twenty-two. Thirteen of these are planning to carry out health work in their programs.

Plan of work for year submitted by various clubs:

- (1) Emphasizing health work.
Studying India as a foreign country.
- (2) To feed some underweight children (a hot drink each day).
Make Home Economics rooms more comfortable.
- (3) Serve hot lunches.
Emphasize health and sanitation.
Build up the Library.
- (4) Emphasize health work.
- (5) Serve hot lunches and use the money from these to improve the sewing room and buy a school medicine chest.
- (6) Health and nutrition.
Health posters monthly.
- (7) Health talks and pageants.
Feed underweight children.
Try to help to promote Home Economics in foreign countries.
- (8) Demonstrations by instructor and students.
Speakers on club work.
- (9) Organize work on cottage plan.
- (10) Give a pageant.
During summer carry out a canning project.
- (11) Run the lunch room.
Weigh and help feed undernourished children in the school.
- (12) Complete cottage.
- (13) Raise money for new Home Economics department.
- (14) Beautify the school grounds.
Add to Home Economics Library.
- (15) October—Winter wardrobe.
November—School lunches.
December—Hostess and hospitality.
January—India.
February—Recreation.
March—Family garden.
April—Beauty and health.
May—Club reports.

17—*Does the club work to further a knowledge of sanitation and health?* In nearly every case the answer was "yes."

18—*Who plans the work, student, Home Economics instructor, or advisory member?* Students 17, H. E. teacher 24, advisory member 3. The work in a good many of the clubs was planned by the Home Economics teacher alone, but in some instances it was planned by the Home Economics teacher and the students.

19—*Tell briefly the work your club did last year.* Sixteen replies were received to this question. These are listed below.

- (1) Held nine meetings, with these programs: Business and election of officers, school grounds, health, sanitation, spring clothes, school lunches, social, general open program, commencement cares.
- (2) The class was given a room and furnishings for a dining room. The club fixed up the room as attractively as possible. Also subscribed to magazines for the different departments.
- (3) Charity work.
- (4) Health play was given. Entertained high school and faculty twice.
- (5) Raised \$15 to obtain a State-aid Library. Ran a lunch room and studied underweight and undernourished children.
- (6) Gave pageant, two parties, Valentine supper, served mothers of club members, gave a fashion show, made costumes for operetta.
- (7) Gave programs on health, table manners, dress. Gave socials at Hallowe'en, Christmas, and Easter. Helped at banquets, receptions, teachers meetings, etc.
- (8) Had regular meetings with socials; had demonstrations; bought some necessary equipment for school.
- (9) Served milk with graham cakes to the primary grades; made candy and fruit cakes at Christmas for the sick; served lunch to the school officials; raised money to buy curtains.
- (10) Spent entire year in getting cottage in shape for work.
- (11) Entertained patrons of school; served lunch to ministerial association; made Christmas gifts; made garments for destitute child; cleaned up school grounds; made health posters.
- (12) Put on demonstration of millinery and clothing before Parent-Teachers Association; raised money for draperies and pictures for the department; planted beds of tulips and hyacinths on school grounds (over 1,000 bulbs).
- (13) Entertained mothers, faculty, seniors, and board of trustees; made money for new equipment of cottage.
- (14) Served hot soup and cocoa to pupils occasionally; laid basis for home nursing; gave programs in chapel; planted flowers on grounds.
- (15) Sent trays to the sick; made posters; made Christmas gifts; made table linen for com-

munity building; gave talks on health; gave an oyster supper.

- (16) Made money by selling hot food and candy to pay for curtained kitchen, subscription to two magazines; prepared and served two banquets at the State Sunday School Convention.

SUMMARY

Having some well known leader in home economics as a club sponsor has doubtless meant much to the groups of girls, for the girls thus come in contact with people who represent progress, authority, ability, and accomplishment. It has made the girls familiar with books written by sponsors that no amount of study would ever have accomplished. The relationship between the school club and its sponsor is meant to be a source of great pleasure and profit to both.

Many clubs stated that they used the membership fees or otherwise raised enough money to subscribe to a good Home Economics paper or magazine. This is a splendid idea, for no club can progress unless its members keep up with the work being done in the field. Every club should have access to the *Journal of Home Economics*; if it is not in the school library, this would be a good magazine for the club to subscribe to.

Club meetings should be held regularly if possible, for this helps to keep the girls interested in their work. If the club meeting takes part of the time from a recitation period it should not meet weekly, for this would cause them to lose too much time from their other work. It would be better in that case to meet bi-monthly or monthly and have some assignment to cover that length of time.

To keep the girls interested in the club the programs must be varied and interesting. The favorite type of program seems to be the speaker on subjects pertaining to Home Economics work. This affords an opportunity of getting prominent Home Economics speakers before the girls; it will be beneficial to the club. The type of program which seems to be neglected is the demonstration type. These might be given

by the Home Economics instructor or by the pupils themselves. Some of the simplest demonstrations might be given by club members and this practical experience would be very valuable to them.

Several companies send out commercial demonstrators and lecturers to demonstrate and exhibit their products and these are available for club programs. Some of these are:

1. Miss Mary I. Barber,
Home Economics Director,
Kellog Company,
Battle Creek, Michigan
2. Miss Eleanor Ahern,
Director, Home Economics Dept.,
Proctor and Gamble,
Ivorydale, Ohio
3. Miss Helen W. Atwater,
Editor, Journal of Home Economics,
Grace Dodge Hotel
Washington, D. C.
4. Miss Helen Louise Johnson,
Writer and Adviser in Home Economics,
Women's University Club,
106 E. Fifty-second St.,
New York, N. Y.

Open club programs should be given often and patrons should be invited. This keeps the patrons familiar with the work done by the pupils and then anything that the club undertakes will be backed by the patrons. The social phase of the work should not be neglected, as this is almost as important as the other.

The important part of most club work is devoted to health work. A special drive is being made this year to accomplish definite results in health work. Mrs. Ora Hart Avery, State Supervisor of Home Economics Education, has outlined in the September, 1924, number of the *Peptomist*, six problems on health that she wishes the clubs to work out. It is hard for any one club to undertake all six problems in the very beginning, but many are taking only two or three and trying to carry these out this year.

ORRA E. SMITH